

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SOFIA 01597 071506Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 H-01 SSO-00 SS-15 SMS-02 SES-02

INR-10 INRE-00 /043 W

-----121333 071516Z /46

O R 071438Z AUG 78

FM AMEMBASSY SOFIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5048

INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY BERLIN

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

C O N F I D E N T I A L SOFIA 1597

E.O. 11652: GES

TAGS: XH, US

SUBJECT: DAS LUERS TESTIMONY ON EASTERN EUROPE BEFORE HIRC

REF: A) STATE 194188; B) MOSCOW 18503

1. EMBASSY IS PLEASED TO HAVE CHANCE TO PREVIEW OUTLINE
OF PROPOSED TESTIMONY BY DAS LUERS BEFORE HIRC. WE WILL
BE VERY INTERESTED IN SEEING PORTIONS OF HIS ACTUAL
TESTIMONY DEALING WITH BULGARIA.

2. WITH SPECIFIC REGARD TO BULGARIA, WE SUGGEST A LOW-KEYED
APPROACH TO FOLLOWING ISSUES:

--DIVIDED FAMILIES. AS DEPARTMENT AWARE, WE HAVE HAD
MODERATE SUCCESS ON THIS ISSUE WITH BULGARIANS BY AVOIDING
THE SEMBLANCE OF PUBLIC PRESSURE WHICH TENDS TO HARDEN
GOB ATTITUDES.

--BULGARIAN INTEREST IN EXPLORING MFN POSSIBILITIES.
OUR READING HERE IS THAT THIS IS A SENSITIVE, SOMEWHAT
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CLOSELY HELD, TOPIC FOR THE GOB. RECENT ARTICLE IN
JULY 24 ISSUE OF EAST-WEST MARKETS ON BULGARIA'S CAUTIOUS
SIGNALS STRIKES US AS GOING ABOUT AS FAR IN PUBLIC (IF
NOT, INDEED, TOO FAR) AS THOSE WITHIN GOB WHO FAVOR BETTER
ECONOMIC RELATIONS WITH US MAY WISH TO GO. OUR CONCERN
IS THAT TOO MUCH ADVANCE PUBLICITY ABOUT GOB FEELERS ON
THIS ISSUE MAY CAUSE GOB TO RECONSIDER ITS MOVES.

3. AT SAME TIME, WE FEEL IT WOULD BE JUSTIFIED TO POINT TO BULGARIA'S RATHER POOR PERFORMANCE UNDER CSCE REGARDING FLOW OF INFORMATION AND FREEDOM OF CONTACTS BY BULGARIANS CITIZENS WITH THE WEST.

4. EMBASSY FULLY CONCURS WITH TONE AND THRUST OF REF B REGARDING PUBLIC AIRING OF OUR POLICY OBJECTIVE IN EASTERN EUROPE OF ENCOURAGING SOME INDEPENDENCE FROM SOVIETS ON FOREIGN POLICY. AT TIME WHEN BULGARIA IS BEGINNING TO SHOW FIRST SIGNS OF DOING JUST THAT, PARTICULARLY REGARDING ITS BILATERAL RELATIONS WITH US, WE FEEL BULGARIAN LEADERSHIP WOULD BE PARTICULARLY SENSITIVE TO PUBLIC STATEMENTS CALLING ATTENTION TO THIS FACT.
GARTHOFF

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